

Literacy B.C. NEWSLETTER

March 1993

Volume 3, Number 1

MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC DONATES ...



Doug Hanna, Regional Manager,
Matsushita Electric Canada
and Linda Mitchell.

Literacy BC was one of 20 literacy groups in BC to receive a Panasonic TV/VCR unit, donated by Matsushita Electric of Canada Limited - in celebration of their 25th year of operation in Canada.

Matsushita President T. Shikata says, "We are happy to contribute to the literacy effort because we know it is an issue that is important to all Canadians."

Matsushita has donated 200 combination TV/VCR units, with a total retail value of \$170,000 to community-based volunteer literacy organizations across Canada.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF BC CONFERENCE

"DOING IT RIGHT - AN EXPLORATION OF GOOD PRACTICE"

Will be held:

April 14 - 17, 1993
Fairmont Hot Springs

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION CALL:

Marvin Work
Selkirk College
365-7292

FAMILY LITERACY WORKSHOP

The workshop will be held:

Saturday, April 24, 1993
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Simon Fraser, Harbourside
515 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.

The workshop is co-sponsored by Literacy B.C. and BCLA. Presenters will be Rebecca Bauen and Tracy Radford from the Seattle Public Literacy program "START SMART". There will also be a panel of local resource persons.

COST:

\$35 for Literacy B.C. and BCLA members
\$40 for non-members
\$20 for students

The workshop will be of interest to ABE/Literacy Practitioners, Tutors, Community Literacy Workers and Librarians. Lunch is included.

Call 687-5077 to register, by **April 2, 1993.**

CANADA POST LITERACY AWARDS

Deadline for applications is **April 30, 1993**. Awards will be granted in 4 categories:

- * A literacy organization
- * A company
- * A teacher
- * A student

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL OR WRITE:

Flight For Freedom Award
Station 490
Canada Post Corporation
720 Heron Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0B1
Telephone: (613) 734-7582

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE LITERACY B.C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We will be calling for nominations to the Literacy B.C. Board of Directors in May. The following Regional positions will be up for election (two year term):

New Caledonia
East Kootenay
Northwest
Selkirk
North Island
Camosun
Kwantlen

There will also be five Member at Large positions (two year terms). Please watch our next newsletter for further election information. In the meantime, if you know of someone you would like to nominate, please flag your calendar and send us their name. We need your input!



UPCOMING EVENTS

PROVINCIAL LEARNERS CONFERENCE

**"STEPPING OUT TOGETHER -
BUILDING A CIRCLE OF CARING"**

Will be held:

June 15 - 18, 1993
Columbia Bible Camp
Cultus Lake, B.C.

FOR APPLICATION FORMS CONTACT:

Telephone: 687-5077
Fax: 687-5076

CANADA DAY READING EVENT

July 1, 1993

"Seed Money" is available to host a READING EVENT on CANADADAY. Deadline for applications will be *April 15*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Greg Laroque
Dept. of the Secretary of State of Canada
800 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2N5
Telephone: 666-1941

"GLOBAL ISSUES IN THE CLASSROOM"

Three (3) free workshops for ESL and Literacy teachers were conducted in Victoria, Vancouver and Nanaimo throughout February. The purpose was to help develop skills for teaching about global issues. The workshops featured Co-Development Canada's unique new textbook, Global Stories of People Working for Change.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about future workshops, or about this publication, please contact Ms. Ruth Leckie at 253-4391 (local 39) or at 872-0297.

THIRD ANNUAL PGI GOLF TOURNAMENT

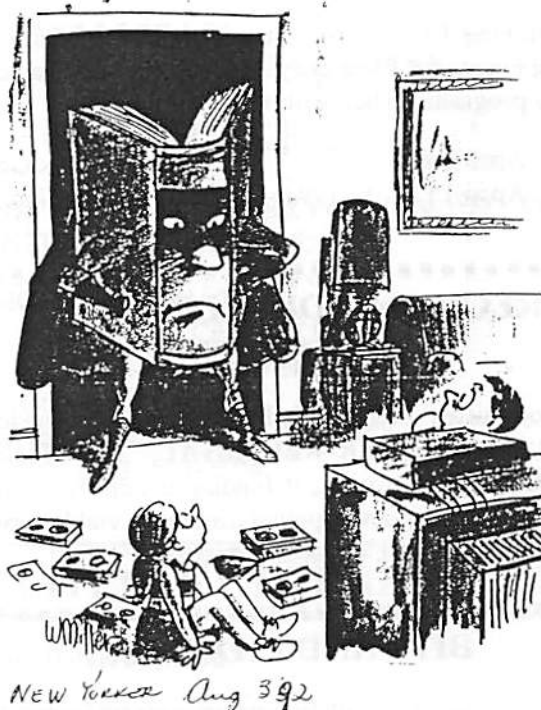
The THIRD ANNUAL PETER GZOWSKI GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR LITERACY B.C. will be held:

August 27, 1993
University Golf Club
Vancouver, B.C.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

687-5077.

A pre-tournament event is scheduled for August 26th - it has to do with spelling! Watch for more details in the next Newsletter.



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LITERACY B.C. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

Will be held:

October 22, 23, 1993
Vancouver, B.C.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met recently and welcomed the following new members who replaced people who had resigned.

BILL MUNDIE. Bill was elected as the *Regional Representative for Northwest*. He works at Houston Forest Products and is on the Board of Project Literacy Houston.

BILL LAVORCHICK. Bill was elected as *Member At Large*. He attends ABE classes at East Kootenay Community College in Invermere and is an artist.

PAT HODGSON. Pat was elected as the *Regional Representative for Capilano*. She is an ABE Instructor at Capilano College and was the Provincial Literacy Coordinator for MAETT in 1991-92.

TRAINING COMMITTEE

The Training Committee of the Board has planned two training events for Planners, Coordinators and Trainers in literacy programs. They will be:

April 2 & 3, 1993 in Prince George
April 15 & 16, 1993 at the ABE Conference

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This committee has applied for funds to develop a **LITERACY INTER-REGIONAL NORTHERN NETWORK**. This project, if funding is approved, would provide community development training, a viable network and a model for other regional networks.

BITS AND PIECES ...

Congratulations to the following board members...

- » **ROSE PIERRE** for being selected as the Executive Director of the **YINKA DENE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE**.
- » **ERNA BARWICH** and **KEN REICH** for being selected to be on the **EXTERNAL REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THE 1993-94 COST SHARED PROJECTS** as learner representatives.

GOV'T RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Government Relations Committee has been involved with responding to developments regarding:

□ THE B.C. TRAINING AND ADJUSTMENT BOARD (BCTAB)

The committee is particularly concerned about the way this Board will be structured. A letter has been sent to the Honourable Tom Perry, Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology expressing these concerns and asking that literacy be designated as an equity group and have a representative on the BCTAB.

Members of Literacy B.C. have been attending the BCTAB Education Reference Group meetings as a way of keeping informed about the BCTAB. Currently, this group is asking for Nominations for people to represent the Education sector on the BCTAB.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BCTAB, CALL THE LITERACY B.C. OFFICE.

□ FARIS REPORT RESPONSE

The Committee and Board have worked on a response. This will be circulated by *March 15, 1993*. If you want a copy of the Literacy B.C. response, call 687-5077 or fax 687-5076.

THE NEW DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES TO THE FARIS REPORT IS APRIL 15, 1993.

□ PLAIN LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

Colin Gabelmann, Attorney General and Lois Boone, Minister of Government Services have announced the closure of the Plain Language Institute, effective March 1993.

A new plain language program will begin in Spring 1993 and will support plain language initiatives in all government ministries, boards, commissions and agencies. The plain language program will be based in the Ministry of Government Services and will have a community-based Advisory Committee. Phil Knight, who was Executive Director of the Plain Language Institute, will be the interim coordinator of this program.

Literacy B.C. wrote to government congratulating them on their continued commitment to Plain Language, but expressed regret at the loss of the Institute. We have asked for a representative on the Advisory Committee.



MOVEMENT FOR CANADIAN LITERACY NEWS

KEEPING LITERACY ON THE NATIONAL AGENDA

In 1988, on International Literacy Day, the Prime Minister announced a five year \$110 million, federal literacy initiative. These new funds were allocated in 3 areas: support to the voluntary sector and nongovernmental sectors; joint initiatives with the provinces, and the establishment of the National Literacy Secretariat.

This five year initiative is drawing to a close. A federal election is due. Where are we headed? How are we going to keep literacy in the national agenda?

On November 23, the Canadian Alliance for Literacy (CAL) reviewed and revised the Cedar Glen Declaration. This declaration (February, 1987), along with the Southam News Literacy study, helped propel literacy onto the national agenda and was a vital contribution to the National Literacy Secretariat's five year plan. The 1987 Declaration was endorsed widely by national, provincial, regional, and local organizations and individuals. Many of these contributed financially to the placement of ads in the *Globe and Mail* and *Maclean's* magazine promoting Cedar Glen's agenda for literacy.

MCL's next fax will update you on the revision effort and CAL's plans around using the declaration as a tool for keeping literacy on the national agenda.

- » If you would like a copy of the "revised" 1987 Cedar Glen Declaration call, write, or fax the MCL office.

- » MCL wants to know your ideas about keeping literacy on the national agenda. Fax, write or phone them.
- » MCL also would like to know of any organizing strategies at the provincial and local levels. Would you be willing to share these with other literacy organizations across the country so that MCL can pool their resources/ideas? If they get enough, they will put these together in a resource kit for literacy organizations and programs across Canada.

UPDATE ...

MCL currently has two staff in their office -- Nancy Jennings is the Interim National Co-ordinator, until June, while the Board looks for a permanent Co-ordinator. Barbara Bailetti is the interim Office Manager.

LOVE LITERACY DAY...

was a HUGE success!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SENT VALENTINES FOR THE MPS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Movement for Canadian Literacy
500 - 880 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1R 6K7
Voice: (613) 563-2464
Fax: (613) 563-2504

1993 CANADIAN GIVE THE GIFT OF LITERACY FOUNDATION

GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 1993

The goals for the Foundation are to make literacy a high profile issue and to help non-profit community literacy groups develop materials for adult learners and their teachers.

Two types of grants will be given by the Foundation in 1993:

1. SEED GRANTS

Grants of up to \$2500 will be available to non-profit community literacy groups to develop an idea, perform a needs assessment, and create a working sample of a

project. This new grant will enable groups to begin the process of creating literacy materials, with adequate support for the task.

2. PRODUCTION GRANTS

Grants of up to \$5000 will be available to non-profit community literacy groups to produce materials for adult learners and their teachers. The applicants must submit a working sample of the project materials, along with the application form.



NEWS FROM ACROSS BC

ADULT LEARNING PROGRAM Sooke School District

Things are going well at the Adult Learning Program and we are in the middle of training 23 more volunteer tutors. The Literacy B.C. Public Awareness Campaign certainly has resulted in lots of volunteer interest.

We have also been actively recruiting new students for the Adult Learning Program. Eleanor Bahr, the Teacher/Coordinator, students, Darryl Feduniw and Sylvia Lalonde and Caroline Hoon, a tutor have made appearances on 4 local radio stations. This has resulted in quite a few phone calls and some new students.

Monday, February 15, learners tutors and staff celebrated Heritage Day by a wonderful "Heritage Dessert Pot Luck" at lunch time. Tomato soup cake?

March 2nd, the Adult Learning Program hosted its annual Open House. This event and a display at the local mall are part of our participation in Education Week.

FORT ST. JOHN LITERACY SOCIETY

The Fort St. John Literacy Society will be holding a GALA READING NIGHT, *MARCH 27, 1993*, at the North Peace Cultural Centre to celebrate literacy in the community. This event will bring together community members of all ages, including new adult readers who will present a passage from a favourite book, folk tale or poem. We will also be bringing in several special guests who will entertain and talk about literacy in the community. This event is being planned to increase the public's awareness of literacy problems, to develop a larger network of concerned citizens in the movement and to raise funds for the ongoing work of the Society.

WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE EACH OF THE COMMUNITIES IN THE LITERACY COALITION TO SUPPORT THIS EVENT BY PURCHASING A SINGLE \$12.00 TICKET WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO A LITERACY LEARNER IN THE COMMUNITY. Each ticket will be acknowledged in the program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. David Griffiths at 785-6981 or 785-2456.

MAIL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

FORT ST. JOHN LITERACY SOCIETY
Box 6196, Fort St. John, B.C. V1J 4H7

PROJECT LITERACY GREATER VANCOUVER

An information meeting and get together is planned for *TUESDAY, MARCH 9TH, 1993 @ 5:00 p.m.* at the Literacy B.C. office:

#1128 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.

Refreshments will be provided. To confirm your attendance at this meeting, or for more information, please call the Literacy B.C. office at 687-5077.

PROJECT LITERACY PARKSVILLE/QUALICUM

Now that government funding has ended, The Write Place will continue to operate on a reduced basis for the next three months. Donations and fund-raising efforts throughout the past year have allowed us to keep the office open four days a week, starting January 4, 1993.

Project Coordinator, Liz Campbell will assist walk-in clients. We invite volunteers who have office and computer experience to call Liz at 248-4041. The volunteer tutors program, funded by Malaspina College will continue with Tutor/Student coordinator, Karen Dawe.

VICTORIA READ SOCIETY

2ND ANNUAL POETRY BASH FOR LITERACY "WRITES OF SPRING"

Friday, April 23, 1993

7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Newcombe Theatre, Royal B.C. Museum
675 Belleville Street, Victoria

Some of the poets reading at this second annual event will include:

Doug Beardsley, Marilyn Bowering, Patrick Lane, Susan Musgrave, P.K. Page, Linda Rogers, Nadine Shelley, Robin Skelton, Heather Spears, Patricia Young and more....

Cost of tickets: \$15.00 or \$10.00 for unwaged people.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melanie Austin at 388-7225.



NEWS FROM ACROSS BC

PLEASE WELCOME TWO NEW LITERACY GROUPS.....

COMOX VALLEY LITERACY PROJECT

Our Story:

Once upon a time, there was a Canada Employment Centre possessed of many fine and dedicated employment counsellors. These counsellors, being wise, knew changes were coming in the land of the Canadian Job Strategies and they would soon become guardians of many taxpayer dollars. So they set out to find a mandate (like a mandela) in order to be good and competent guardians. In their travels, they found a wonderful mandate, "to be instrumental in human resource development in the Comox Valley."

Meanwhile, back at the kingdom, there were many persons without jobs seeking to be retrained for the new world. But alas!! Many of these hopeful persons were unable to participate in the new world because they needed to read, write and arithmetic better.

So, the counsellors thought long and hard and realized (light goes on) their first priority would be to look after the jobless ones who needed to read, write and arithmetic better so that everyone in the kingdom could have a choice to join in the new world.

The counsellors gave the co-ordinating group a 6 month grant to:

- » recruit an interim board of directors from the kingdom, representing labour, business, government, interest groups, service clubs, learners and other interested persons
- » set up a non-profit society with charitable tax status
- » offer a 12 week literacy course for 6 jobless persons
- » conduct an in-depth needs assessment and write a proposal for longer term funding
- » initiate a public awareness program
- » develop a volunteer tutor program

At this time in the kingdom, the interim board is recruited, the name, vision, purposes and by-laws are complete, the instructor has been hired for the literacy course and the needs assessment has been started.

You may ask how the counsellors will fund the longer term. The counsellors have given us their promise we can look to project based without emphasis on work experience, or if that doesn't work, we can be a co-ordinating group for many more moons.

So, in the land of the Comox Valley, we are happy puppies looking forward to better reading, writing and arithmetic skills for all throughout the kingdom.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Ms. Linda Cooney
#103-780 Grant Avenue
Courtenay, B.C. V9N 2T3.
Telephone: 334-4415, Fax: 334-9747

NECHAKO REGION LITERACY TASK FORCE

In January, representatives from both the private and public sector gathered to discuss the issues of literacy facing the communities of Vanderhoof, Fort Fraser, Fort St. James and Fraser Lake. One of the major outcomes of this meeting was the formation of the Literacy Task Force which will begin raising community awareness of the personal, social and financial costs of low literacy. The Literacy Task Force will begin this work immediately, with presentations at the Healthy Communities Community-Group Fair in March and the Vanderhoof Trade Show in April. This is the first step in the process of community literacy development.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joyce Upex
Box 176
Vanderhoof, B.C. V0J 3A0
Telephone: 567-4744

or

Charlyne Smilinski
College of New Caledonia
R.R. #2
Vanderhoof, B.C. V0J 3A0
Telephone: 567-9291.



WHO WE ARE

Literacy B.C., founded in March 1990, is a coalition of people and groups concerned with promoting literacy in B.C.

Our mission is to promote literacy, to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships and to present a united voice on literacy. We are supported by Multiculturalism and Citizenship Canada, National Literacy Secretariat, memberships and donations.

Literacy B.C. welcomes your news and comments. Send to:

LITERACY B.C.

#1128 - 510 West Hastings Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8

Telephone: 687-5077 Fax: 687-5076

We reserve the right to edit all submissions

BULLETIN BOARD

APRIL IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH FOR LITERACY B.C.

NOTICE

Women interested in being on the mailing list of the Feminist Literacy Workers' Network contact:

Sally Gellard
Box 355
Merville, BC V0R 2M0
Telephone: 377-8328

THANK YOU

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ...

- » **MIKE HARLING** for putting a literacy message on the bookmarks he gives out at his store, *SPORTSBOOK PLUS*. Mike also donates his GST rebate cheque to Literacy B.C. on a regular basis.
- » **ZONTA INTERNATIONAL** for donating \$2,800 to support our Training Events.
- » **ROTARY WOMEN'S AUXILIARY of Vancouver** for donating \$600 to help publish the Newsletter.
- » **MR. & MRS. GRAHAM SIMMS** for donating \$160 to Literacy B.C. as Christmas gifts for their family.
- » **MR. RALPH SAYLE** for donating \$1,000 to Literacy B.C. at Christmas time.
- » **STAFF OF THE TORONTO DOMINION BANK**, 700 West Georgia Street for donating \$1,300 through their United Way pledges.
- » **ROGERS CABLE T.V.** for donating \$80 as a Christmas gift.

This generous support is appreciated and important!

